

## **FREIGHT MOBILITY STRATEGIC INVESTMENT BOARD**

### **MEETING MINUTES**

**November 14, 2003  
Seattle, Washington**

Board members present were Chairman Dan O'Neal, Mr. Ross Kelley, Mr. Andrew Johnsen, Mr. Don Lemmons, Mr. Jim Toomey, Mr. Dick Marzano.

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:** Chairman Dan O'Neal welcomed all to the meeting.

The Chairman praised the Maritime Summit and the work done by Mr. Andrew Johnsen and the other organizers in putting it together. Mr. Johnsen explained how the recommendations would be taken to the next step.

**MINUTES:** Mr. Jim Toomey *moved that they be accepted, and Mr. Ross Kelley seconded to approve the September 26, 2003 meeting minutes.*

***MOTION CARRIED***

**FMSIB BUDGET:** Director Schmidt reviewed the operating budget and the status of both the capital budget and the special Union Pacific account.

**DIRECTORS REPORT:** The Director spoke at a Cascadia Meeting, was part of the steering committee for the Maritime Summit, attended the LTC meeting in Pasco and the SFTA meeting in Yakima, completed the freight familiarization tour for Senator Horn, and developed three PowerPoint presentations. Additionally, there have been meetings with the sponsors of the D Street, Ainsworth and S. 228<sup>th</sup> St Projects.

The Project Selection Committee will meet on December 12 to discuss ways to improve our selection process

**BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:** Mr. Don Lemmons: Reported on the meeting with Senator Horn after the final freight familiarization tour. The senator expressed some thoughts on having a defensible criterion for selecting our projects, the need to communicate the importance of freight movement to the economy, and the importance of engaging local officials as advocates of projects before the Legislature. Senator Horn said he wanted to find funding, next session, for some of our ready-to-go projects and to find ongoing funding in the future for FMSIB.

Mr. Jim Toomey: Reported on the LTC meeting held in Pasco and the growing awareness of the importance of port competitiveness by members of the Legislature. The legislators

toured many of the freight projects in the Tri-Cities area and heard from local people involved with freight at a panel discussion in the afternoon.

Mr. O’Neal: Discussed the opening of the Atlantic Street connection on SR-519, and the continued dispute over the Royal Brougham segment of the project. While BNSF is satisfied with the proposed new alignment, the truckers and the ports do not consider it an enhancement for the movement of freight.

Director Schmidt: Participated in the opening of 8<sup>th</sup> Street in Pierce County, a grade separation over the BNSF tracks. The next phase would be the completion of an undercrossing of the Union Pacific tracks, which would then connect directly to SR167.

The Director also discussed recent changes to the Legislature. Senators West, Reardon and Rossi will be leaving the Senate and it is assumed there will be corresponding changes in the House with representatives moving into the vacant positions.

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – FREIGHT OFFICE:** Chairman O’Neal introduced Barbara Ivanov to the Board as the new head of the DOT Freight Office. Ms. Ivanov described her role as the new partner at DOT supporting the efforts of FMSIB and developing a strategic vision within the department. She gave an example of moving our antenna installation up so our Benchmark project could move forward faster, and the joint research we are currently doing. The plan she is developing will involve a “customer intelligence system” using agricultural producers and manufacturing businesses as key customers to identify requirements, such as the importance in the cost of a move or just-in-time delivery. Ms. Ivanov envisions using the requirements of these customers to propose projects that must meet the price sensitive issues in order to achieve their requirement, and then developing a benchmark as to whether they have achieved their goals. She says she sees a lot of overlap in alignment between our project criteria and the approach that she’s proposing.

The Board welcomed Ms. Ivanov to her new position and offered their insights. Mr. Dick Marzano explained the way the port weighed competing customer requirements and the need to put them into the context of the entire picture to determine what helps everyone

**PROJECT UPDATE:** All project sponsors have been contacted and asked to update the project status information prior to the 2004 legislative session. The project list being compiled for funding in 2004 was discussed. A few of the projects are uncertain at this time as to whether they can begin construction by the end of the current biennium so the list is not yet finalized.

**ANNUAL REPORT:** *Mr. Ross Kelley moved that the annual report be accepted with the reservation of future editorial comments, minor ones to clean it up and make it technically correct prior to the end of November. Mr. Toomey seconded the motion. Mr. Johnsen abstained from endorsing any Board policy, but voted on the adoption of the report itself.*

**MOTION CARRIED**

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** *Mr. Toomey moved that the recommendations be adopted. Mr. Lemmons seconded the motion. Mr. Johnsen explained that his vote would be to move the*

*package forward and not an endorsement by the governor. Mr. Kelley and Mr. Toomey declared that they would be voting for the package as a whole, including the project list which had a project that would benefit each of their areas. Neither Mr. Kelley nor Mr. Toomey had advocated for the inclusion of the projects on the list.*

**MOTION CARRIED**

**BENCHMARK:** Mr. Mark Hallenbeck from the University of Washington provided an update on the FMSIB Benchmark data gathering project. The project is developing a process for benchmarking freight performance. The process is looking at volume, origin/destination, location of delays, severity and frequency of delays. The goal is to determine how FMSIB can measure the effectiveness of projects and use the same data to help identify and prioritize potential FMSIB projects. The goal is also to get the data inexpensively using available information from Department Of Transportation, CVISN and the Washington State Patrol, and supplementing that with GPS information and data from the equipment purchased by FMSIB last year. The federal government has selected this project as one of five they are monitoring nationwide because no one else has developed a way to measure freight movement.

**PORT COMPETITIVENESS:** Mr. Doug Ljungren, from the Port of Tacoma, explained the current marine trends and implications for the Washington State ports. Various trends were reviewed including the recent use of all water routes, increased capacity in the Panama Canal, the growth of volume at the Port of Vancouver, the fact that it is faster to ship a container of apples to Asia than it is to ship it to Chicago, the projected doubling of cargo in the next 20 years, and the potential of developing an inland port.

**PROJECT UPDATE:** Tim LaPorte and Chad Bieren, from Kent provided an update on the S. 228<sup>th</sup> Street Project. The project involves a grade separation of both the BNSF and UP rail lines. The city is proposing a new approach to building the grade separations that will save two years and \$4 million if both railroads agree to some operational changes during construction. The approach eliminates the need to build a shoo-fly and will be only disruptive for a couple of 8 hour periods and one 24 hour period per rail line. The city has gone as far as it can on the design without an agreement from both railroads that this is an acceptable approach. FMSIB has been asked to help bring resolution to the design decision. If successful, this approach can be used for other similar projects saving time and money.

**LEGISLATIVE PLAN:** The Director described the changes that were taking place in the Senate and the House membership as well as some leadership changes. Senator Jim Horn and Representative Ed Murray have been invited to attend the January meeting to share their legislative goals for the session, and Senator Dan Swecker has been invited to discuss his proposal for development of a Commerce Corridor. Board members were encouraged to educate their constituencies and develop support for the 2004 FMSIB recommendation. Ms. Carol Moser was attending a meeting of the Association of Cities to request their support, and the Director and Pat Jones were meeting with the AWB.

FUTURE MEETING: The board discussed the upcoming meeting dates and Board members were asked to bring their calendars to the next meeting so the March meeting can be rescheduled.

*Mr. Toomey moved that the next FMSIB meeting be held on January 16, 2004 in Olympia, WA. Mr. Johnsen seconded the motion.*

**MOTION CARRIED**

**MEETING ADJOURNED 1:26 PM.**



**A. DANIEL O'NEAL, CHAIRMAN**

**ATTEST:**



**KAREN SCHMIDT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**